

II. Remarks

Applicants respectfully request that the merits of the application be reconsidered in light of the Amendment above and the remarks that follow.

Claim 24 has been amended. Claims 24-33 remain pending in this application.

No new matter has been added due to the amendment to claim 24.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 24-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bron (US Patent No. 4,428,397) and allegedly being anticipated by Société Anonyme André Citroën (French Patent No. 1,299,719). Applicants traverse the rejections to the extent that they are maintained.

Claim 24 has been amended to recite that the fluid pathway is impeded by impeding flow through the hole. Neither US Patent No. 4,428,397 nor French Patent No. 1,299,719 teach impeding a fluid path by impeding flow through a hole in a membrane. Both US Patent No. 4,428,397 and French Patent No. 1,299,719 teach impeding flow by having a membrane engage an outlet. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

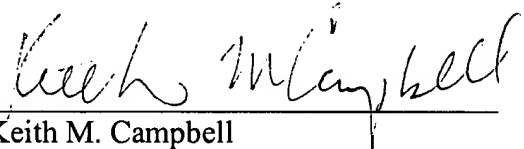
III. Summary

Applicants assert that claims 24-33 are in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned with questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,
Haller et al.
By their attorney

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Date


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